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Editorial Comment

THE STEEL TRUST INCIDENT.

The energy of public interest in the panic incident which involved the sale of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company to the Steel trust, is steadily accumulating. The fact that the president's action in permitting the sale is of historic importance is sufficient to assure the country that the circumstances will ultimately be made known. In the meantime, the question as to whether the executive action was proper is complicated by the controversy concerning the right of congress to demand the submission of executive records for information.

It is really important that the public should know all about the Steel trust transaction, not for the purpose of criticism or the manufacture of political ammunition, but as the basis of a better understanding concerning the necessities of the case. If the law is now to be construed as interfering with the normal freedom of property use or the beneficial administration of industrial affairs, even to the extent of persuading the national executive to disregard its restrictions, the law can well disappear and carry with it the necessity of violent constructions. That an officer of Roosevelt's well-known opinions should be the author of a violent construction, kept from public knowledge by the impediments to constitutional inquiry, is the strongest evidence against the merit of the law. The concessions of an advocate give the heaviest emphasis to the ideals of the opposition.

The implied rights of property are manifold. One of them is the implied right of sale, which would seem to give to the Wall Street banking house the unquestioned liberty to dispose of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company to any purchaser. On the side of the Steel Trust, which purchased the same, it might be argued that it possessed the right of accumulation, but the aim of modern laws is evidently to restrict such right. Judge Taft remarked the other day that the talents and efforts of the best lawyers would, within a few years, be called upon to discover the necessary limitations, as a means of forestalling a losing test of this institution. Judge Taft has expressed the feeling of the best observers.

It is, therefore, essential that the Steel trust precedent be understood, and that the administration deal frankly with congress and the public. The country has a vital interest in the maintenance of its institutions and the integrity of property rights, whether they be those of the great or the small. It is, indeed, true that the laws should be properly made and properly construed, for if they are not properly made they will be improperly construed.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

It is now nearly fifty years since a dreamer of dreams first propounded the policy of old-age pensions, urging that this reform of state-aid was due "to pensioners of the ploughshare as well as those of the sword." The idea was ridiculed and dismissed; but just as the paradoxes of one generation become the accepted policies of the next England is today giving this needed support to her "veterans of industry." The dawn of the New Year, 1909, marked a memorable epoch in the lives of thousands of Great Britain's old people, broken on the wheels of industry but not despaired.

The blessings of this money distribution can hardly be estimated. While no exact figures are yet obtainable, the latest returns from postoffices throughout

the United Kingdom and Ireland show that of the 690,027 claims received up to December 31 last, more than 500,000 persons have been dealt with by the pension officers. It is computed that for these half-million claims thirteen tons of silver were required. In London alone during the first week of January more than 30,000 pensioners received an average of \$1 each. In Ireland \$150,000 was paid to 150,000 aged persons, the successful claimants in Dublin numbering 4,500, most of whom received the maximum of 5 shillings, or about \$1.25 each.

Remarkable scenes have attended the inaugural of the old age pension payments throughout England, Ireland and Wales. In London many pathetic figures presented themselves at the postoffices, and some of the old folks were so overjoyed that they brought with them presents to the sympathetic government officials. In several instances the joy of the aged recipients was so great that they were overcome by the excitement and have since died.

TAFT ON WATER WAGON.

When William H. Taft rides into the White House on March 4th next it will be on the "water wagon." Moreover, he will try to make this the popular vehicle during the four years of his administration, though there are certain society folk here in the nation's capital who doubt his ability. In banishing the handwork of Bacchus from the presidential residence, Mr. Taft will not desire the impression to go forth that he is seeking fame as the country's foremost "white ribboner," nor, on the other hand, will he aim a blow at the devotees of the cheering cup. With Mr. Taft's sobriety is a conviction, not a fad. It is his firm belief that if the executive workshop is to deserve and hold its present reputation of being one of the busiest in the government fold its atmosphere and the minds of its workers must not be clouded with the distracting fancies of King Alcohol.

Mr. Taft's belief in the virtue of an unclouded mind in the presidential body is born of seeing the effect on others of too many trips to the flowing bowl. In the Philippine Islands, where he went as governor and later as secretary of war, he found that the spirit of conviviality reigned among the army officers, sometimes to their disadvantage. That he surrounded himself with administrative helpers who were known as consistent passengers of the water wagon, therefore, was evidence that he doubted the dietary value of alcoholic beverages for men laboring under the burning rays of the tropical sun.

WITHOUT A PARALLEL.

In all the history of the human race, the conduct of this nation in its relation to Cuba is a unique example of fostering good will, says the Philadelphia Telegraph. One may look in vain for a parallel instance where a power having once taken possession of a country by force of arms has deliberately planned for the education of its inhabitants for self-government, and their establishment as a free and independent people; nor can another such an instance of generous forbearance be found where, when upon one signal failure of these inhabitants to rule themselves, the power which liberated them from mediaeval monarchical oppression has set patiently to the work of retrieving the ruin they brought upon themselves, and of proceeding a second time to fit them for self-rule.

FOR BETTER CONSULS.

Young men throughout the country looking forward to a career in the diplomatic service may take cheer in the thought that during the coming Taft administration merit alone will open the door to appointment. This announcement may strike with particular force that class of young men who have achieved university honors. Aside from Mr. Taft himself, the best friend of this merit system will be his secretary of state, Philander Knox. In taking these consularships, which mark the road to higher diplomatic preferment, out of the political "grab bag," Mr. Knox will follow the course of the present secretary of state, Elihu Root, who can rightfully lay claim to being "the father of consular reform."

A few years ago it could be said, and was said with truth, that the average American consul was "a joke;" that he had no right to represent this or any other country in an important diplomatic capacity, and that his presence as such was entirely due to a bad political system. Except in exceptional cases, these assertions would be without foundation now, and when Mr. Taft and his secretary of state get through with their pruning, these exceptions, too, will be of the past.

Changed commercial conditions, as well as the embarrassments brought about by incompetent representatives abroad, have made this consular reform imperative. It was either a question of divorcing the consular berths from politics or be discredited in the eyes of foreign governments. Though the change wrought has not been without opposition, and Mr. Taft when he becomes chief executive probably will be urged to return to the old "spoils" system, the results attained have proven the wisdom of the reform.

To the average American this field offers varied attractions. It may not have been so in former years, when most of these jobs were properly labelled "sinecure," because the consul's chief duties consisted of killing time and drawing his pay. The service is now ridding itself of the few incumbents who follow this exciting routine. While it is true that some consular offices offer a wider field of opportunity than others, none of them are without their offerings to the ambitious man. Many of those stationed in the various countries of South America, which countries are now marching to the tune of a quick step to capture some of this country's trade, have found ample opportunity to develop lines of trade for home merchants, and thus benefit indirectly. Others have been offered alluring inducements to enter the service of corporations having a large shipping headquarters at the port where they were stationed, and still others have left the consular service to develop opportunities they learned of while acting as their country's representative. Taken all in all, this field would seem a vastly more inviting one than formerly, and more so because, instead of being closed to all except a class of hungry politicians, it is now within the reach of all—if they only show their fitness.

PROBATE BUSINESS.

The final accounts of Phil Pecarich, administrator of the estate of Mike Babich, deceased, were allowed, approved and settled in the probate court yesterday. There being no income from the estate the expenses of administration were credited to the administrator. A half interest in a lot in Jerome was distributed to John Babich, brother of deceased, and the administrator was discharged and the estate closed.

A decree was made and entered setting aside lot 18 and the north half of lot 20 in Block E, Prescott, as a homestead to Charles L. Parker, surviving husband of Julia Parker, deceased.

Decrees were entered establishing notice to creditors in the estate of Julia Parker, deceased, James Drum, deceased, and George Jackson, deceased.

ROOT IS CHOSEN

Secretary of State Is Named to Succeed Senator Platt

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 18.—Elihu Root was the unanimous choice of the Republican legislative caucus tonight to succeed Senator Platt.

The Democrats named former Lieutenant Governor Chanler as their senatorial nominee. The legislature is overwhelmingly Republican.

MOYER GETS NOTHING

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Supreme Court has decided against Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners, in the damage suit brought by him against former Governor Peabody for imprisonment at Telluride in the riots of 1904.

EXPECT TO SECURE RECOVERY OF FLOUR GOLD

Inventor of New Process Asserts it Can Be Accomplished

There is perhaps no line of metallurgical work which has called out more effort in the improvement of methods than that of recovering flour or flake gold.

In most cases it has been along the line of amalgamators, ridges or the mechanical submersion of the containing sand in baths of mercury.

The old copper plate has always held its place and, although many devices have been brought out which promised a higher recovery, none has been able to supplant it in the general operation of gold milling.

One of the great objections to the ordinary copper plate has been the loss of quicksilver resulting from scouring and fooling, for, while the mercury has a very decided affinity for copper, the attachment, which has no side support, is so delicate that it takes but little to disturb and detach it.

The great advantages of copper plates are the ease with which they are kept in condition when once working normally, and also the fact that they are always open to close observation and attention in order to keep them in condition.

A new line of experiment has been recently taken up by J. D. Luttrell of Benton Harbor, Mich., based on the idea of securing some medium or material which would more securely retain the mercury, and that, in such a form as not to entirely envelop the gold particle, but still hold it securely until it may be released as an individual particle and not as amalgam.

Following this idea, he has produced a compound incorporating disseminated particles of mercury which are independent of one another. This compound, when made, is plastic and can be used as a coating either on a plate, flat surface or the inner surface of a cylinder. On standing, the material hardens to any desired degree of density, according to the proportion of the ingredients, and as the mercury is evenly distributed through it, there are thousands of particles presenting bright faces at the surface, as attaching points for the gold.

In that the materials of the compound, the nature of which has not been disclosed to the public, have a very high affinity for the mercury, it is quite difficult, if not impossible, to break them loose from their seating, as they are supported on all sides, thus reducing loss to a minimum.

The surface of the compound, when ready for operation, has the texture and "feel" of a moderately rough cement surface, and is in a most admirable condition for deterring the rapid progress of pulp over it. This roughness tends to roll the particles and keeps them constantly climbing over obstacles.

It has been demonstrated and determined that when particles of gold become attached to the mercury particles, they can be readily brushed off from the surface by passing a tuft of cotton batting over it and the gold is recovered as dust. Based on this fact, the inventor proposes to use a large cylinder having a coating of the compound on the inside, as probably the best form of machine.

This will be mounted on a slight pitch, similar to a trommel, and the sand, which will be fed at the upper end, will be gradually progressed to the lower end by the revolving of the cylinder. In this way every particle will be brought into contact with the surface. A brush of cotton, or similar material, is placed so as to contact with the surface at the highest point and act as a detacher of the gold particles. This brush can then be burned and the gold recovered from it.

In a small demonstration, which was made for the writer, all the points mentioned above were clearly demonstrated and the very finest of scale or flake particles were seen to attach themselves to the mercury, but retained their individuality. A tuft of cotton, then passed over the surface, cleaned it entirely and entangled the gold completely in the fibre.

A pan which was coated inside with the compound, entirely freed from the sand of all the gold particles which were readily seen firmly held by the mercury, and the same results were obtained either with dry or wet pulp.

Water did not affect the action, appearance or condition of the surface further than to brighten the mercury

particles, nor was there any change after hours of immersion.

One feature of the method in the case of renewal. If from any cause or accident any portion of the surface is injured, all that is necessary, in the way of repairs, is to apply a new coating of the compound, either to fill the break or to cover the entire surface if necessary, at but slight expense, and the apparatus is as good as ever.

The machines are designed to meet all requirements, in the way of capacity, from 1,000 to 5,000 cu. yds. per day, and are made in such a manner as to allow of transportation over the most difficult trails or roads.

Mr. Luttrell has made application for patent on the invention and a company has been formed by which the proposition is fully financed. He is now looking over the western fields to find properties on which to install and operate his new discovery and invention, whether they be wet or dry, or difficulty accessible. He has been requested by the U. S. Geological Survey to send them reports as to his operations and results, which tends to show the esteem in which the process is held by these, as well as other eminent authorities.—Mining Review.

RUN OVER BY WAGON

Dick Nelson Suffers Broken Thigh and Minor Injuries

(From Tuesday's Daily)
With left thigh broken and suffering from minor bruises on the body and arms, Dick Nelson was brought here yesterday from Alvarado and lodged in the county hospital. Nelson fell from a wagon Sunday evening at 8 o'clock at Alvarado, the hind wheel passing over his broken limb.

He was employed as teamster by the H. J. Walter Company. The wagon, the wheel of which broke his thigh, was loaded with 4,500 pounds of freight. The accident happened as he was driving towards the barn to unhitch for the night.

The bones of the broken limb were set after he reached the hospital, only first aid bandages being used after the accident, as there was no surgeon in the camp.

ELECT DIRECTORS

Commercial Trust Company Holds the Annual Meeting, Choosing Officers

(From Sunday's Daily)
At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Commercial Trust Company, held yesterday, the following directors were elected: Morris Goldwater, R. N. Fredericks, F. G. Brecht, James A. Hope, F. M. Murphy, J. L. Gardner, Ed Block, George Schuerman, J. J. Hawkins, T. G. Norris and Harry Brisley.

A meeting of the directors was held after the close of the stockholders meeting at which Morris Goldwater was elected president, R. N. Fredericks vice president, L. B. Larimer cashier, and H. M. Thomas, assistant cashier.

FREEMAN-BLUMBERG WEDDING.

(From Sunday's Daily)
Miss Cecilia Blumberg and Edward Freeman were united in marriage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dreyer in this city Friday night at 9 o'clock. Probate Judge C. P. Hicks officiated in the presence of a number of relatives and friends.

A reception followed the nuptials. The bride is the sister of Mrs. Dreyer. She has resided here several years and is a favorite in local social circles.

The groom is an attaché of the Dreyer and Blumberg mercantile establishment. He came here two years ago from New Jersey. The wedding is the culmination of a romance that started several months ago when he met the charming woman he now proudly claims as bride. They were the recipients of many costly and useful presents.

RESTORES WATERWAY.

(From Tuesday's Daily)
W. L. Roberts of Skull valley was here yesterday, purchasing lumber and supplies for the construction of a flume to conduct the waters of Skull valley creek to his ranch.

The flume will be 1,500 feet in length, one foot deep and one foot wide at the bottom. It will replace a ditch which has been washed away from time to time in the last three years by floods.

The lumber for the new water conduit will be shipped today to Skull Valley station. Roberts left for home last night.

LIKE PRESENT SECRETARY.

POCATELLO, Jan. 16.—The National Wool Growers' convention today sent a telegram by the officers of the association to Taft in Atlanta asking that the present secretary of agriculture be retained in the cabinet.

Among the papers read before the convention today was one by A. J. Knollin, of Chicago.

COURTLAND CLAIMS STIR UP MUCH LITIGATION

Conflicting Titles Are Bound Up By Tangle

TOMBSTONE, Jan. 18.—The first action to be filed in the district court that involves the question to title to claims in the vicinity of Courtland has been filed in the district court and is entitled William Blackburn, T. W. Maloney and George McGee, plaintiffs, vs. the Calumet & Arizona Mining Company, the Leadville Mining Company, A. Y. Smith, Thomas Fildew, J. H. Snyder and L. D. Shattuck, defendants. The suit involves the question of title to the New Year mine and eight other claims in the immediate vicinity of Courtland. The complaint alleges that the plaintiffs were in possession of the property in question by right of prior location, and that the defendants have made recent locations over the locations made by the plaintiffs, and are thus depriving them of their rightful ownership. The claims in question lie just north and west of where the C. & A. company are at present sinking the new shaft of the Maid of Sunshine mine, and where they are operating the diamond drill on the King Solomon property. F. W. Goodbody appears as the attorney for the plaintiffs.

This is but a starter of what is to follow from the actions of parties in that district. Claim after claim has been located and then relocated and overlapped, so that it is next to impossible to determine where the lines of any of the claims are, as there are monuments every few feet in some parts of the district.

Dan Sullivan is about to start action against a number of parties who have taken in a portion of his claim, which he has held for a number of years, and upon which he has done assessment work and spent no small amount of money.

An example of what the excitement in that vicinity has caused those not acquainted in the district to do was the locating of two patented claims, the Emmett and Elgin, by no less than ten or twelve different parties. These claims adjoin the Brown group on the east by about one hundred yards from where the Copper Queen company is sinking the new shaft, and have an excellent showing on the surface. They are the property of the Kendall Mining Company of Kansas City, and when W. R. Kendall of Kansas City was out there a few weeks ago he found that there had been a number of parties doing work on the property, and no less than fifteen 10-foot holes for location work had been done on the properties. It was discovered that the ground was patented and they would move off and someone else would locate it, so that the company has some development work done on their property with no expense to themselves.

The next session of the district court will find a number of cases on the docket involving the question of title to mining property in that locality. This is not only sure of the mining claims, but there is a likelihood that there will be a number of lively disputes arising over the filing of homestead entries in that locality as there have already been filed by different parties their intention to claim the same pieces of land.

PUBLIC RECORDS.

Instruments Filed as Reported By The Prescott Title Co.

David Foley files \$1000 bond as justice of the peace, Ash Fork precinct. C. A. Peter, Jr., files \$2000 bond as clerk of the board of supervisors.

A. B. Foltz & Peter Giroux locate 2 mines, Peck district.

Jan. 14.

J. C. Bradbury, county recorder, appoints H. E. Aston as deputy.

Geo. P. Harrington & Otto Lohard locate Iron Hill mine, Tiger Dist.

John Wilkins et al, file Aff. A. work on Mormon Group Placer, Walker district.

Dell Riggins & John Wilkins file Aff. A. work on Drummer Placer, Big Bug District.

Dollie Wilkins files Aff. A. work on Baltimore Placer, Big Bug District.

T. J. Evans et al incorporate T. J. Evans & Co. (Inc.) Capital Stock \$25,000.

H. E. Hamblin locates Bumble Bee Placer, Lynx Creek district.

Black Mountain Copper Co. file Aff. A. work on 17 Mines, Mineral Point district.